

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR SCUL PO

SUBJ: AZORES AGREEMENT - EDUCATION PACKAGE 1971

1. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS TRANSFERRING LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF 1971 AZORES EDUCATION PROGRAM TO THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION. THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WILL NOT WISH TO CONTINUE WITH TEACHER EDUCATION PROJECT IN ACADEMIC YEAR 1975-76. IN THE MINISTRY'S VIEW, THE CREATION OF NORMAL SCHOOLS AS ENVISIONED BY THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT IS AN OVERLY AMBITIOUS GOAL. HENCE, NORMAL SCHOOLS ARE NO LONGER A MINED PRIORITY. HIGH UP AMONG ITS PRIORITIES, HOWEVER, ARE JOURNALISM EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. BOTH NORTHWESTERN AND TEXAS UNIVERSITIES HAVE EXCELLENT PROGRAMS IN THESE FIELDS.

2. ONCE EMPHASIS SHIFTS FROM TEACHER EDUCATION OTHER MINISTRIES MAY WISH TO GET INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR TRAINING (E.G., MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS). AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE TEACHER EDUCATION PROJECT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT ON SOMEWHAT NOVEL BASIS. THE PROCESS HAS BEEN AS FOLLOWS: THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS DRAWN UP LISTS OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTHWESTERN AND TEXAS HAVE

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COME TO PORTUGAL WITH FULL AUTHORITY FROM THEIR

UNIVERSITIES TO INTERVIEW, TEST, ADMIT AND ENROLL STUDENTS. NECESSITY WAS THE FATHER OF THIS INVENTION. TIME HAD GROWN SO SHORT IN THE SUMMER OF 1973, THE YEAR THE PROGRAM ACTUALLY GOT UNDERWAY, THAT ONLY BY TELESCOPING STEPS IN THIS MANNER WAS IT POSSIBLE TO GET STUDENTS ADMITTED IN UNIVERSITIES IN THE FALL OF '73.

3. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT RECOMMEND THAT THIS SYSTEM BE CHANGED. IT WORKS FOR PORTUGAL, WHERE THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AND IMPROVIZATION IS PARAMOUNT.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS GLADLY HANDLED THE ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM UP UNTIL NOW. THIS HAS AMOUNTED TO LITTLE MORE THAN SERVING AS COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. ONCE A YEAR, WHEN THE GRANTEES TRAVEL, THE EMBASSY HAS HAD TO ARRANGE THEIR TRAVEL, BUT THAT HAS NOT BEEN OVERLY BURDENSOME.

5. THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION, HOWEVER, HAS A MUCH BETTER MECHANISM TO TAKE ON THIS CHORE. AND IF, AS THE EMBASSY EXPECTS, OTHER MINISTRIES OF THE GOP DESIRE TO GET INTO THE PROGRAM, THE COMMISSION IS THE PROPER ENTITY TO DEAL WITH THEM.

6. THE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER THE REMAINED OF THE \$1 MILLION GRANT FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS FLOWING FROM THE 1971 AZORES AGREEMENT (WE ESTIMATE THE REMAINDER TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$200,000) WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION WOULD NEED TO BE REIMBURSED FOR THE PORTION OF ITS TIME IT DEVOTES TO THIS ACTIVITY. HOW WOULD THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED?

7. THE EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL.
SCOTT

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